

South Oakleigh College – Victoria 2009

Students Year 10 Accelerated Science Class - 26 students

Background

One teacher was involved in the delivery of the TLfS program. The school community was kept informed of progress via regularly briefing our Principal, school newsletters and staff meetings.

Process

The TLfS program was delivered as part of a Year 10 Accelerated Science class.

Partnerships

- As well as linking up with our colleagues at Bayside Council, YouthConnect and the BGK LLEN, we also worked with others groups outside the TLfS Network.
- Worked with student representatives from the University of Melbourne on the Green Schools Projects (ThinkActGreen) where students worked with businesses on various projects.
- Worked with ATSE (Australian Academy of Technological Scientists and Engineers) including Alan Finkel (Chancellor of Monash University) on the STELR (Science and Technology Education Leveraging Relevance) project focussed on learning the Science of renewable Energy via Inquiry-based learning.
- Worked with Dr Jessica Walsh from the CSIRO's Scientists in Schools program. She helped students with their projects and also offered work placement opportunities.
- Communicated with Abbie Lane (a permaculture expert, part-time teacher at Eumemmerring Secondary College, and part time at Casey Council) who recommended an excellent class activity: 'Spaceship 3000'.

Projects

- Stop Climate Change Human Sign Project. See www.live.org.au where a human sign was formed on St Kilda beach at 11am 17th May. Students organised a school group to go – 14 students and 5 teachers.
- School Assembly Presentation – To seek participation in sustainability events
- Blog for a Sustainable Earth – see <http://4sustainableearth.blogspot.com/>
- A team of 15 students brainstormed and came up with a sustainability initiative of their own: to capture rainwater from the Science building into two water tanks to supply water for an edible garden to be installed in a fenced-off area next to the Science building; the garden's produce will provide the Food Technology classes with vegetables and herbs, with veggie scraps being recycled as compost back to the garden. The students prepared the proposal after gaining quotes for the tanks, and presented their submission to the Principal and then to a school assembly. The proposal was successful and the school is planning to implement the students' project in 2010.

Feedback

The students responded well and enjoyed exploring opportunities to try out their leadership skills. The Human Sign experience was moving for the students, and subsequently they have shown great commitment to their projects, culminating in the Water Tank – Edible garden project.

TLfS is a great project providing schools with a framework for extending their sustainability and leadership education, with applicability to all schools.